

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0321

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JUNE 8 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 172ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS HELD ON JUNE 8 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF FRG REP (BEHREND), ACTING CANADIAN REP (PUDDINGTON) AND SOVIET REP (TARASOV) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENTS. THE SOVIET PRESENTATION IS REPORTED BY SEPTEL. IN HIS STATEMENT, PUDDINGTON DESCRIBED THOSE ASPECTS OF THE WEST'S APRIL 19 INITIATIVE WHICH DEAL WITH PHASE I US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE CANADIAN STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. IN KEEPING WITH THEIR DEMONSTRATED DETERMINATION TO WORK TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THESE
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NEGOTIATIONS, ON APRIL 19, 1978, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS INTRODUCED IMPORTANT NEW PROPOSALS.

2. THESE NEW PROPOSALS, IN PART, DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE ISSUE OF PHASE I US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH, IN DECEMBER 1975, THE WEST MADE SIGNIFICANT

CHANGES IN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHASE I REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS ENVISAGED BY THE ORIGINAL WESTERN PROPOSALS, EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CONTINUED TO EXPRESS CERTAIN CONCERNS ABOUT THOS REQUIREMENTS.

4. THE WEST'S NEW PROPOSALS DIRECTLY ADDRESS THESE EASTERN CONCERNS IN A MANNER WHICH REDUCES THE PHASE I REQUIREMENTS ON THE SOVIET UNION WHILE AGAIN ADDING TO THOSE ON THE US.

5. THE EASTERN CONCERN THAT THE PHASE I WITHDRAWAL OF AN ENTIRE SOVIET TANK ARMY WOULD LEAVE A SERIOUS GAP IN EASTERN DEFENSES HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE RELAXATION OF THAT REQUIREMENT SO THAT THE USSR WOULD NOW WITHDRAW 68,000 MEN, 5 DIVISIONS DRAWN FROM ANYWHERE IN THE REDUCTION AREA AND 1700 TANKS.

6. THE EASTERN CONCERN THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF A COMPLETE SOVIET TANKS ARMY WOULD ENTAIL LIMITATIONS ON VIRTUALLY ALL ARMAMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA HAS BEEN OBIATED BY THE PRESENT WESTERN STIPULATION THAT NO RESIDUAL LIMITATIONS WOULD BE PLACED ON ANY SOVIET ARMAMENTS OTHER THAN TANKS.

7. THIS STEP PROVIDES AN EQUITABLE AND PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT ARMAMENTS SHOULD BE REDUCED AND LIMITED IN PHASE I.

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8. THE EASTERN CONCERN THAT THE US COULD IMPLEMENT ITS REDUCTIONS BY INDIVIDUALS OR UNITS AS IT SAW FIT HAS BEEN ADDRESSED BY THE EXPRESSED US WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO TAKE APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF ITS PHASE I MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN UNITS OR SUB-UNITS.

9. THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS ENVISAGE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE UNITS TO BE WITHDRAWN IN PHASE I.

10. THERE WOULD BE NO LIMITATIONS ON THE OVERALL NUMBER OR LOCATION OF US AND SOVIET UNITS IN THE REDUCTION AREA.

11. THE APRIL 19 WESTERN PROPOSALS, AS WAS THE CASE WITH THOS OF DECEMBER 1975, CHANGE THE MILITARY OUTCOME ENVISAGED BY THE ORIGINAL WESTERN APPROACH AND REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT TO MEET EXPRESSED EASTERN CONCERNS.

12. THE PRESENT WESTERN APPROACH REPRESENTS A FAIR COMPROMISE AS REGARDS THE REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS IN PHASE I.

13. SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON DATA, THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS PROVIDE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR A FIRST AGREEMENT.

14. WESTERN GOVERNMENTS ARE CONCERNED BY THE ABSENCE OF AN
AGREEMENT, WHOSE ACHIEVEMENT WOULD BE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION
TO EAST/WEST RELATIONS.RESOR

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